

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 IO-11

AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-05 SAJ-01 ACDA-05

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R 241316Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5774

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 0525

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

REF: LISBON 0522 (DTG 231759Z JAN 76)

SUMMARY: ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF EANES ON JAN 23 ANNOUNCED
INTENTION TO CUT ARMY BY APPROXIMATELY 40 PERCENT TO NEW STRENGTH
OF 26,000. BASIC THRUST OF EANES'S PLAN IS TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY
AND PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE OF ARMY. ALTHOUGH NO TIMETABLE
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WAS ANNOUNCED, IMPLEMENTATION WILL BE COMPLICATED BY ALREADY

HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT AND LEFTIST ASSERTIONS THAT CUTS ARE PART OF MASTER PLAN TO TURN ARMED FORCES INTO "REPRESSIVE INSTRUMENT." IN JAN 23 INTERVIEW, POPULAR DEMOCRATIC PARTY LEADER SA CARNEIRO ELABORATED ON BASIC THEMES OF PREVIOUS DAY'S PRESS CONFERENCE, REPORTED REFTEL. END SUMMARY.

1. FURTHER ARMY REDUCTIONS: DURING VISIT TO NORTHERN MILITARY REGION HEADQUARTERS IN OPORTO JAN 23, ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF EANES ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO MAKE FURTHER SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTIONS IN SIZE OF ARMY. THE STREAMLINED AND REORGANIZED FORCE OUTLINED BY EANES WILL HAVE 26,000 MEN, DOWN APPROXIMATELY 40 PERCENT FROM CURRENT LEVELS. OF THE TOTAL, 6,500 WILL BE ASSIGNED TO "GENERAL INFRASTRUCTURE" OR STAFF DUTIES; 9,600 TO "TERRITORIAL INFRASTRUCTURE" OR NATIONAL GUARD-TYPE FUNCTIONS; AND 10,400 TO "OPERATIONAL" TASKS. THE MISSIONS DEFINED FOR THE REORGANIZED ARMY REFLECT TRADITIONAL MILITARY DEFENSE AND INTERNAL SECURITY CONCERNS.

2. MELO ANTUNES COMMENTS: FOREIGN MINISTER MELO ANTUNES ON HIS RETURN JAN 23 FROM ATLANTIC COUNCIL MEETING IN BRUSSELS SAID THAT IT APPEARED NO UNDERSTANDING HAD BEEN REACHED ON ANGOLA IN DISCUSSIONS IN MOSCOW BETWEEN THE U.S. AND USSR. MELO ANTUNES ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE THOUGHT SOME PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE IN THE MOSCOW TALKS ON SALT AND MIDDLE EAST. ON LATTER TOPIC, FOREIGN MINISTER REAFFIRMED GOP SUPPORT FOR CREATION OF AN INDEPENDENT STATE FOR PALESTINIANS, ADDING THAT GOP RECOGNIZED "SAME RIGHT FOR PEOPLE OF ISRAEL."

3. MEDEIROS FERREIRA ON CUBAN FLIGHTS: ASKED TO COMMENT ON HIS JAN 22 CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS MEDEIROS FERREIRA TOLD PRESS JAN 23 THAT HE HAD EXPRESSED TO AMBASSADOR GOP'S DISPLEASURE AT WASHINGTON STATEMENT ON ALLEGED "STRONG REPRESENTATIONS" BY USG ON ISSUE OF CUBAN FLIGHTS TO ANGOLA. MEDRIROS FERREIRA SAID THAT DECISION BY GOP TO END FLIGHTS WAS NOT TAKEN AS RESULT OF ANY PRESSURES BUT RATHER REFLECTED GOP'S POLICY OF STRICT NEUTRALITY IN ANGOLAN CONFLICT.

4. SA CARNEIRO INTERVIEW: IN INTERVIEW APPEARING IN JAN 23 "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS," POPULAR DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PPD) LEADER
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SA CARNEIRO MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

-- ANGOLA: IT WOULD BE GRAVE ERROR FOR GOP AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO RECOGNIZE MPLA, WHICH DID NOT MERIT RECOGNITION.
-- MILITARY ROLE: CURRENT MILITARY ROLE SHOULD BE TO ENSURE CONDITIONS FOR DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS. SITUATION IS DETERIORATING AND IS NOW LESS FAVORABLE TO PEACEFUL ELECTIONS THAN IN MID-DECEMBER WHEN CONSTITUTIONAL LAW PUBLISHED DEFINING MISSION OF ARMED FORCES. FOLLOWING ELECTIONS, MILITARY SHOULD

RETURN TO SPECIFIC MISSION OF GUARANTEEING NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE.

-- POST-ELECTION GOVERNMENT: ELECTION RESULTS MUST BE RESPECTED IN FORMING NEW GOVERNMENT. PRIME MINISTER MUST COME FROM MOST-VOTED PARTY WITHOUT MILITARY INTERFERENCE. SA CARNEIRO SAID HE ANTICIPATED THAT ELECTION RESULTS WOULD ELIMINATE COMMUNISTS FROM PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT. FUTURE GOVERNMENT WILL INCLUDE ONE OR MORE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES WITHOUT PARTICIPATION BY MILITARY MEN AS MILITARY MEN.

-- RELATIONS WITH PS: COOPERATION WOULD BE SIMPLE MATTER AS LONG AS PPD IS ACCEPTED AS "THE ONLY PORTUGUESE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY" AND ITS ELECTORAL STRENGTH WAS RESPECTED. BUT ANTI-PPD CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED BY PS MUST END. POLLS SHOWED THAT PPD WAS LEADING, RUNNING EIGHT TO TEN PERCENTAGE POINTS AHEAD OF PS.

-- INTERNATIONAL LINKS: ALTHOUGH PS HAD BLOCKED PPD ACCESS TO SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL, PPD HAD STRONG TIES WITH WESTERN EUROPEAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES, WHICH WERE MORE SIGNIFICANT.

5. COMMENT: BASIC THRUST OF EANES' PLAN IS TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY AND PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE OF ARMY. THE DECISION TO MAKE FURTHER SUBSTANTIAL CUTS IN SIZE OF THE ARMY WAS A DIFFICULT ONE. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CUTS, FOR WHICH NO TIMETABLE WAS ANNOUNCED, WILL BE COMPLICATED BY ALREADY HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT AND LEFTIST ASSERTIONS THAT CUTS ARE PART OF MASTER PLAN TO TURN ARMED FORCES INTO "REPRESSIVE INSTRUMENT." THE MILITARY-ORIENTED MISSIONS DEFINED FOR THE RESTRUCTURED ARMY UNITS IS ENCOURAGING BUT BROAD MISSIONS CONTAINED IN EARLIER CONSTITUTIONAL LAW, I.E., DEFENDING NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE; COLLABORATING IN TASKS OF NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION; AND GUARANTEEING CONDITIONS TO PERMIT PEACEFUL TRANSITION TO DEMOCRACY AND SOCIALISM--STILL PROVIDE AMPLE JUSTIFICATION FOR CONTINUED BROAD MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICS.

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